

# HERMIT DYING IN WEALTH-STREWN HOME

## Brandt Letter to Be Made Public If Schiff Testifies.

WEATHER—Uncertain to-night and Sunday; warmer.

WEATHER—Uncertain to-night and Sunday; warmer.

**NIGHT**  
EDITION.

**The**



**World**

**NIGHT**  
EDITION.

"Circulation Books Open to All."

"Circulation Books Open to All."

PRICE ONE CENT.

Copyright, 1912, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York World).

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1912.

10 PAGES.

PRICE ONE CENT.

### MISSING BRANDT LETTER WILL BE MADE PUBLIC IF GANS CAN TESTIFY

Banker Schiff and His Counsel  
Demand Open Hearing  
of Their Evidence.

MAY GO BEFORE HAND.

Want no Immunity, Lawyer  
Says, and Accuses Whit-  
man of Obstructing.

The instance of Howard Gans, counsel for Mortimer L. Schiff, whose activity in the Brandt case has been a "thirty year prison sentence" for an opportunity to testify before some public tribunal forced District-Attorney Whitman to an open position of keeping Gans away from any opportunity to claim immunity for himself or for Mr. Schiff. In pursuance of his determination to prevent Gans or Schiff from making statements that might be set up later as a bar to any action that the authorities might take the District-Attorney is prepared to invoke all the powers of his office.

Mr. Whitman has been informed that Mr. Gans and Mr. Schiff will demand the right to appear as witnesses in the inquiry to be begun on Tuesday before Judge Hand, Gov. Dix's special commissioner. While it does not appear that any testimony they might give in the Hand inquiry would be set up as an immunity plea, the District-Attorney, who will be represented at the inquiry, will take steps to keep both Mr. Gans and Mr. Schiff out of it.

**GANS DEMANDS CHANCE TO TELL TRUTH PUBLICLY.**

Mr. Gans was pressed today to make explanations of the various facts which have been brought out in the Grand jury investigation. He refused to amplify a note following statement:

"I have nothing to say at the present time. What I have to say I hope to tell in a public inquiry where, for the first time, the truth will be told in this whole matter can be made clear."

"In view of the suggestion appearing in a morning newspaper that by testifying before a Commissioner, I could acquire immunity from something, I repeat, as to this investigation, what I have written to the District-Attorney as to the Grand Jury investigation, that I do not desire it, and that I would not accept it. What I do need and want is that all the facts shall be brought out in a public inquiry and the whole truth made plain."

"Mr. Schiff's attitude and mine are identical."

From a source of information close to Mr. Gans it was learned today that he has turned over to the District-Attorney three of the letters set in the effects of Brandt by the police after Brandt's arrest. Mr. Schiff has the fourth letter and has refused to give it up, but Mr. Gans, it is understood, has offered the District-Attorney, through his counsel, Delancey Nicolai, to produce a true copy of it.

The three letters in the possession of the District-Attorney were written to Brandt by one of little education. They are in broken English and were evidently penned by a female servant in some household in this city—presumably the Schiff household.

**FOURTH LETTER SOLD COMMUNICATION TO MRS. SCHIFF.**

The fourth letter, now in the possession of Mr. Schiff, is said to be a rough draft of the letter which Brandt wrote to Mrs. Schiff and which she showed to her husband. The contents of this letter have already been made public. The rough draft, however, is bolder in composition than the letter which Mrs. Schiff finally received.

It is said on behalf of Mr. Gans that he makes no attempt to deny that he urged and worked for a severe sentence for Brandt. He wants an opportunity to explain why he did so, under oath.

As to the contention of Brandt's supporters that such an opportunity would afford Mr. Gans an opening to set up a plea of immunity in any proceedings that might be brought against him, it is pointed out for Mr. Gans that the Hand inquiry is not an investigation into any possible conspiracy, but an investigation into the legality of Brandt's conviction and sentence. The legal advisers of Mr. Gans and Mr. Schiff hold that any evidence they might give be-

**POPULAR COMEDIAN,  
WHITE RATS' FOUNDER,  
WHO IS DEAD IN WEST.**



GEORGE F. GOLDEN,  
President "White Rats"

**GEORGE F. GOLDEN,  
MAN OF LAUGHTER,  
DIES AS HE LIVED**

Final Curtain Falls in West on  
Life of Comedian Who  
Smiled to the Last.

A dispatch to The Evening World from Los Angeles, Cal., announcing the death there today of George Fuller Golden, the comedian, Mr. Golden was a sufferer from tuberculosis and had lived in the shadow of death for the past three or four years.

Among the monologists known to vaudeville lovers of the United States, George Fuller Golden was one of the leaders. He was not only a humorist, but a man of ideas and initiative. His mind conceived and his energy formed the White Rats of America, an organization of vaudeville performers that has worked great and enduring reforms in his profession.

When Mr. Golden first became infected with tuberculosis, he located in the Adirondacks and passed a little humorous period. Although he knew he was doomed, his cheerful disposition was never overcast. He remained optimistic and cheerful to the last. He was popular not only with his associates, but with the public and will be missed by thousands who have laughed at his quaint wit.

Mr. Golden was born in Michigan, in 1865. He will probably be buried at Los Angeles.

ALMANAC FOR TODAY.			
Sun. rise.	6:52	Sun. set.	5:42
THE TIDES.			
High Water.	Low Water.	High Water.	Low Water.
9:00 A.M.	1:30 P.M.	9:00 A.M.	1:30 P.M.
2:00 P.M.	5:30 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	5:30 P.M.
6:00 P.M.	9:30 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	9:30 P.M.

The following figures PROVE  
The World's pre-eminence as  
an advertising medium of  
"QUALITY."

179,022 WORLD'S FRANCHISES  
26,463 MORE THAN  
THE HERALD.

No further comment is necessary. It stands to reason that advertisers flock to mediums that yield the best results.

**THERE'S THE ANSWER IN A NUT-SHELL.**

Send your ads. in early today for to-morrow's big Sunday World.

### NEW AUTO HOLDUP DAZES POLICE ON HUNT FOR BANDITS

Gem Dealer Struck Down  
Near Tiffany's and Robbed  
of \$10,000 in Diamonds.

THIRD WITHIN A WEEK.

No Clue Yet to Men Who  
Stole Bank's \$25,000 in  
Attack on Taxicab.

The Police Department of New York is completely dazed by the series of highway robberies that have taken place in the last few days. All the ablest men in the department are at work today, but there is no tangible clue to the robbers whose acts have destroyed the city's sense of security. Not a day passes now but some one is held up, slugged and robbed. It is not one case that confronts the police, but a dozen.

When the department was prepared today to continue its search for the daring thieves it was brought face to face with another crime of like character, the robbery of \$10,000 worth of gems from George H. North, who was beaten and robbed in West Thirty-fifth street last evening. North is a diamond merchant of No. 45 John street. The men who robbed him escaped in a motor car.

The fact that the diamond man was blacked out and robbed in the center of the fashionable shopping district of the uptown section while taking a walk around the block that carried him past the Waldorf-Astoria, within 100 feet of Tiffany's, past the Knickerbocker Trust Company, along a block of Fifth avenue that is the very center of fashion's profane, and then back through a street of hotels and gay life, added to the amazing daring of the latest chapter of the city's crime story.

**POLICE ARE DAZED BY THREE DARING HOLDUPS.**

While this new robbery stunned the already panic-stricken Police Department, scores of detectives worked in vain to find who had robbed Irving Beckerman, bookkeeper of the United States Bank, as he came from the German National Bank at Great Jones street and the Bowery Saturday, and toiled unrewarded in an effort to unearth the robbers who stole \$25,000 from messengers of the East River National Bank Thursday as they came through Church street in a taxicab.

The two men caught in the police dragnet slipped out of it today, at least so far as the taxicab robberies are concerned. Charles Rossi and Abraham Sobel, who were thought to have been implicated in the theft of \$900 from Irving Beckerman at Great Jones street and the Bowery, and perhaps to have had some knowledge of the stealing of \$25,000 from the messengers of the East River National Bank in Church street, were discharged in court. Both of these holdups were marked by the escape of the robbers in a motor car.

Rossi was discharged from custody by Magistrate O'Connor in Jefferson Market Police Court. Beckerman, who had one of the men who had attacked him, said he was not sure of the identification.

As Rossi was leaving the courtroom he had an argument with one of the attendants about removing his hat and Magistrate O'Connor sent him to the workhouse for five days for disorderly conduct. As Detective Farley has been anxious to keep Rossi in custody on the robbery charge, his detention on the island will prove effective in that matter.

Sobel followed Rossi before Magistrate O'Connor. He had been identified by Harold Peck, who gave two addresses, one in First avenue and one in Second, as the driver of a large black automobile which was going along the Bowery near Great Jones street at the time of the attack upon Beckerman. But the Magistrate did not think this sufficient evidence on which to hold Sobel and he was discharged. So now the police are just where they were when the crime was committed.

Robbery victims of the taxicab robber band, must have been spotted by the advance men of the thieves. It is known that men of good appearance, who do not take part in the actual commission of such crimes, are sent out to

(Continued on Second Page.)

### Aviator Coffyn and Two of His Stunts: Taking the Water, Topping a Ferry Boat



COFFYN AND TWO  
VIEWS  
FLYING  
IN AIR  
AND ON WATER



COFFYN AND TWO  
VIEWS  
FLYING  
IN AIR  
AND ON WATER

**MRS. GOOD'S GOODS  
FOUND ON MARY BY  
NOBLE MR. NOBLE**

Cop Is Detective, Despite Uniform, and He Recovers Pilfered—Ahem!—Corsets.

Mrs. Anna Good knows, now, that you can't always tell whether a policeman is a detective or not because he wears a uniform.

Mrs. Good lives at the Hotel Plymouth, No. 37 West Thirty-eighth street. She telephoned to Police Headquarters last night, and asked for a couple of inspectors and eight or ten detectives to investigate a robbery. Headquarters passed the message along to the Detective Bureau of the West Thirty-seventh street station.

All the detectives went out sleuthing on a \$10,000 jewelry holdup, but Mrs. Good had been so insistent that Patrolman Sam Noble was sent around to see her. Mrs. Good was not pleased when the man in uniform was ushered into her presence.

"Where is Inspector Hughes?" asked Mrs. Good. "I asked expressly for him. I think I should at least have Martin Sheridan, because this is a case calling for a regular Sherlock Holmes. If so, nothing is lost done. I shall write to Mr. Sheridan, the Commissioner's secretary."

"What did you lose?" asked the ashamed Noble.

"One toilet of corsets, a pair of corsets, two pairs of gloves, four pairs of silk stockings, a can of cold cream, a switch and a bottle of shoe polish," replied Mrs. Good.

"I don't get you on that switch," said Noble.

"A switch is a piece of hair-false hair," Mrs. Good informed the cop. "It is the same color as mine and I use it to pin my hat to."

Noble wandered forth to investigate. As he walked down the hall he met a chambermaid, who appeared to be trying to dodge him. He noticed the chambermaid's hair was not harmonious. It was in two colors, black and Titan.

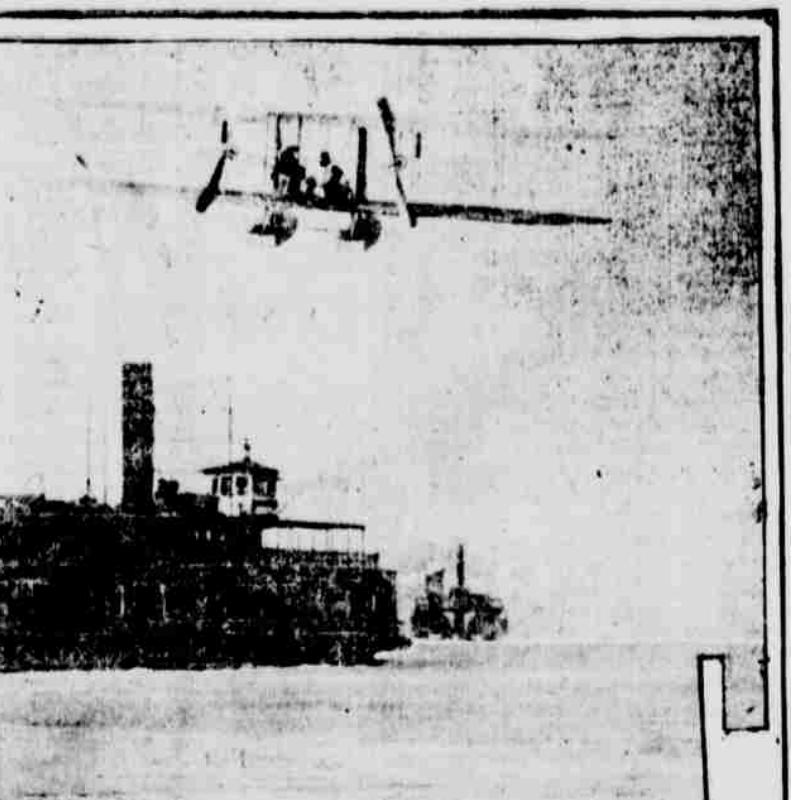
The chambermaid slipped up a staircase and Noble got a flash at her ankles. She had on silk stockings.

"Ah, yes," said Noble to himself. "A chambermaid with silk stockings and inharmonious hair. This calls for action."

He slipped up after the chambermaid and questioned her. She admitted she had on Mrs. Good's false hair. At the station house the matron discovered she also had on Mrs. Good's corsets and two pairs of Mrs. Good's silk stockings. Then the girl, Mary White, confessed she had stolen Mrs. Good's property, and told where the rest of it could be found.

Mary was arraigned in West Side Police Court today, charged with grand larceny. Magistrate Barlow held her in \$500 bail for trial.

All of which would seem to indicate that many a detective heart beats beneath a patrolman's blue uniform and brass buttons.



COFFYN AND TWO  
VIEWS  
FLYING  
IN AIR  
AND ON WATER



COFFYN AND TWO  
VIEWS  
FLYING  
IN AIR  
AND ON WATER

**CHINATOWN BEGINS COFFYN GALLOPS  
TO CELEBRATE ITS HYDRO-AERIAL  
LAST NEW YEAR ABOUT CITY'S EDGE**

Old Calendar Will be Abandoned Now That Republic Is a Sure Thing.

Our fellow citizens of Chinatown have laid aside their plots today to celebrate the last Chinese New Year. The advent of a republican form of government in China has done away with the old Chinese calendar and hereafter the reckoning of time will be according to the Gregorian calendar.

Accordingly, today's celebration of the Chinese New Year is some celebration, being as it marks the departure from history of a feast that has endured for thousands of years. The older Chinamen of New York are reluctant to cut loose from the time reckoning methods of their forefathers, but the demand is imperative, and while the younger Chinamen look upon the occasion as one for rejoicing, these older ones among the patriarchy.

Every Chinaman with a habitation in Chinatown is keeping open house this afternoon and evening—some of them, however, are keeping close watch upon all who approach, for even the celebration of a feast day may not deter a reopening of the old time feud. In the celebration of this year in water, and decorated because there is no absolute power in Chinatown to take charge of affairs.

Frank T. Coffyn called off the big stunt-making aerial machine he had planned for this afternoon and contented himself with an exercise gallop over the Upper Bay and the lower stretches of the East River.

His hydro-aerial plane was in perfect trim, but the moving picture machine with which he intended to snap pictures to gratified bird-eye views sprang a kink in some of its intricate mechanism and had to be shipped to a camera factor for repairs.

Coffyn deeply regretted the accident to his camera, as the weather was perfect for wing work. He promised himself, however, that he would try out a few new self-developer dopes in the course of his little practice sprint over the bay.

On Jan. 1, 1912, the Chinese of this city and the world over will celebrate the Chinese New Year. The march of progress was a long time reaching China, but it has reached there with great force at last and if you don't believe it, drop down to Chinatown to-day and see our colossal population cheerfully say goodbye to a holiday that was ancient before the Christian era began.

### MILLIONAIRE HERMIT DYING AMID GOLD IN "HOUSE OF MYSTERY"

Thousands in Notes Strawn on Floors  
and Coin Fills Kegs in Sealed  
Brooklyn Mansion of  
Samuel E. Haslett.

HOME CLOSED 25 YEARS  
OPENED BY AN ACCIDENT.

Recluse, Injured by Fall and Frost,  
Calls Physician to His One-  
Room Squalid Den.

Samuel E. Haslett, the hermit millionaire of Brooklyn, is dying in his "house of mystery" at No. 138 Remsen street, and the fact that he is dying has opened for the first time in twenty-five years the mansion he occupied alone and revealed an amazing condition of filth and dilapidation.

The magnificently furnished house was two inches thick with dust and \$10,000 in currency littered the floor was swept into corners or lay under thick filaments of dust in the hallways. There were two bushels of unopened mail overflowing from antique brass jardinières, and letters and parcels were tossed and heaped everywhere and then never disturbed.

There were boxes and kegs of gold and silver coins and there were thousands of richly bound books that had never been opened, heaping the various rooms in the great dismal dwelling.

**SPLENDID HOUSE SEALED UP TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.**

It was not by the will of Mr. Haslett that the doors of his home were opened to the outside world. After his wife was turned to death, twenty-five years ago, he sealed himself up in his palatial home and from that day until last Tuesday night no foot other than his own ever stepped inside of it.

On Tuesday night he went to the home of his lawyer, John B. Lord, at No. 180 Montague street, to consult with him about the estate of his sister, Miss Mary Sullivan Haslett, who had died Feb. 3 at Cornwall, N. Y. Miss Haslett had left him her great fortune, and among other things, "a house of mystery" at Clinton and Joralemon streets, Brooklyn.

In all the years he looked after his affairs Mr. Lord had never been allowed to enter the Haslett mansion. Mr. Haslett went to him either at his home or his office. On Tuesday night the old man was only slightly clad and he suffered from the cold. Both his feet froze and he tumbled unconscious into the doorway of Mr. Lord's home.

**ACCIDENT REVEALS SECRETS TO PHYSICIANS AND NURSES.**

It was through this accident that the Remsen street mansion was opened by others than the owner. The moment the physicians and nurses, who had been summoned, stepped into the place they almost swooned from the stifling atmosphere that rushed out to meet them. It seemed as if the house had never been opened and the dust rose from the floors in clouds that filled the nostrils and lungs.

The gas was not turned on and the little party of invaders had to light their way with candles. Passing through the great fifth-story rooms, they found a large chamber on the third floor, in which the millionaire hermit had sealed himself as if in a cave for the last quarter of a century. It was the only room, it seemed, that he had set foot in after the body of his wife had been carried to the cemetery.

After exploring the interior of the mewed and dust-heaped interior of the mansion it was decided to assign the task of cleaning it to a vacuum cleaning concern, and before this was done it was necessary to go through the rooms with a rake and collect the coin and bills that were scattered everywhere. In some of the dust heaps were found bonds and certificates of stock, bundles of letters and time-yellowed manuscripts.

**WIFE'S TRAGIC DEATH MADE HASLETT A HERMIT.**

The tragedy that determined Samuel Haslett to turn hermit and shun the world occurred one summer day twenty-five years ago. Mrs. Haslett was cleaning a pair of gloves with

(Continued on Second Page.)